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## PREFATORY NOTE

At the December, 1913, meetings of the American Economic Association, the American Political Science Association, and the American Sociological Society, a joint committee of nine was constituted to consider and report on the questions of academic freedom and academic tenure, so far as these affect university positions in these fields of study. At the December, 1914, meeting of these three associations a preliminary report on the subject was presented by the joint committee.

At the meeting of the American Association of University Professors in January, 1915, it was decided to take up the problem of academic freedom in general, and the President of the Association was authorized to appoint a committee of fifteen which should include, so far as the members were eligible, this joint committee of nine. The committee was therefore constituted as follows:

Edwin R. A. Seligman, *Chairman*, Columbia University (Economics).

Richard T. Ely, University of Wisconsin (Economics).

Frank A. Fetter, Princeton University (Economics).

James P. Lichtenberger, University of Pennsylvania (Sociology).

Roscoe Pound, Harvard University (Law).

Ulysses G. Weatherly, University of Indiana (Sociology).

J. Q. Dealey, Brown University (Political Science).

Henry W. Farnam, Yale University (Political Science).

Charles E. Bennett, Cornell University (Latin).

Edward C. Elliott, University of Wisconsin (Education).

Guy Stanton Ford, University of Minnesota (History).

Charles Atwood Kofoid, University of California (Zoology).

Arthur O. Lovejoy, Johns Hopkins University (Philosophy).

Frederick W. Padelford, University of Washington (English).

Howard C. Warren, Princeton University (Psychology).

In view of the necessity of investigating an incident at the University of Pennsylvania, Professor Lichtenberger resigned

in August, 1915, and was replaced by Prof. Franklin H. Giddings, Columbia University (Sociology). Professor Elliott, having been elected Chancellor of the University of Montana, resigned in October. Professor Ford resigned in December, on account of inability to attend the meetings of the committee.

The committee of fifteen had scarcely been constituted when a number of cases of alleged infringement of academic freedom were brought to its attention. These cases were not only numerous, but also diverse in character, ranging from dismissals of individual professors to dismissal or resignation of groups of professors, and including also the dismissal of a university president, and the complaint of another university president against his board of trustees. The total number of complaints laid before the chairman of the committee during the year was eleven. As it was impossible for the committee to command the time or the amount of voluntary service necessary for dealing with all of these cases, those which seemed the most important were selected, and for each of these a sub-committee of inquiry was constituted. In the case of the University of Utah the special committee began work in April and published its report during the summer. In the case of controversies at the University of Colorado, the University of Montana, the University of Pennsylvania, and Wesleyan University, the committees of inquiry have their reports either completed or in an advanced stage of preparation. The general committee has had several meetings and has advised the committees of inquiry upon questions of principle and of method and procedure; but it has not, as a body, participated in the investigations of facts, and the committees of inquiry alone are responsible for their respective findings of fact. The general committee has, however, examined these special reports, and, accepting the findings of the sub-committees upon questions of fact, has approved their conclusions.

Three cases for which the committee was unable to secure investigating committees of this Association have been reported, after some preliminary inquiries, to the appropriate specialist societies; one case, arising at Dartmouth College, to the American Philosophical Association; one at Tulane University, to the American Physiological Society; and one at the University of Oklahoma, to the American Chemical Society.

The committee of fifteen has conceived it to be its duty to consider the problem of academic freedom as a whole and to present a report thereon. Such a report is herewith submitted.\* The findings of special committees which have not already been printed will be presented in due course.

The safeguarding of a proper measure of academic freedom in American universities requires both a clear understanding of the principles which bear upon the matter, and the adoption by the universities of such arrangements and regulations as may effectually prevent any infringement of that freedom and deprive of plausibility all charges of such infringement. This report is therefore divided into two parts, the first constituting a general declaration of principles relating to academic freedom, the second presenting a group of practical proposals, the adoption of which is deemed necessary in order to place the rules and procedure of the American universities, in relation to these matters, upon a satisfactory footing.

\* The committee has not hesitated to incorporate, by permission, a number of sentences from articles on the same subject published during the year by members of the committee or of the Association.